



# **DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Dale J Schmidt** Sheriff    **Scott Smith** Chief Deputy

## **Law of the Month**

**December, 2016**

As of June 1, 2010, the state of Wisconsin enacted a law requiring that all vehicles driven on Wisconsin roads have liability insurance. Prior to that law, liability insurance was not mandatory. Even though the law has been in effect for 6 years, Dodge County Sheriff's Office deputies still make contact with many motorists who do not comply with the requirement. In 2015, the sheriff's office issued 109 citations for this violation and 148 so far in 2016.

Operating a motor vehicle without insurance carries a fine of \$200.50 and 0 points.

344.62(1) states: No person may operate a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless the owner or operator of the vehicle has in effect a motor vehicle liability policy with respect to the vehicle being operated.

It is also required that the operator of any motor vehicle carry proof of the insurance. Violation of this requirement carries a fine of \$10 and 0 points. In 2015, the sheriff's office issued 165 citations and so far in 2016 has also issued 165 citations for this offense.

Captain Trace Frost of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office wants to remind all motorists of this law. Frost said, "Driving without insurance can result in a substantial fine and severe financial liability if involved in a crash. Neither are chances you want to take." It is especially important to have active insurance as we approach the winter season as the chances of becoming involved in a crash significantly increase in snow covered and slippery conditions.